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Testimony of CIA Director Sought in Plane-Sale Trial

Defense Also Seeks Subpoenas for 10 Others, Including FBI Agent and Aviation Officials

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A Federal Court conspiracy trial entered its sixth day today, with Judge John O. Henderson expected to rule on a defense request that Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard Helms or a subordinate be subpoenaed to testify.

Edwin Marger, attorney for defendant John R. Hawke, asked Tuesday that subpoenas also be issued to 10 other persons, including an FBI agent, a Federal Aviation Agency official and others in the aviation field. The subpoenas would be served at government expense because Mr. Hawke is indigent.

Tuesday afternoon, the government introduced into evidence a record indicating that a W. W. Roderick was paid $2000 in August 1965 by Aero Associates Inc., through a St. Paul, Minn., bank.

The Tucson, Ariz., company has been cited as the seller of seven B-26 aircraft which allegedly were illegally exported from the U. S. to Portugal in 1965.

Planes Used by CIA

Dallas M. Coors, a Tucson bank official, testified that the record did not indicate why the $2000 was paid to Mr. Roderick.

Judge Henderson held a hearing in the jury's absence Tuesday during which Mr. Marger explained his reasons for seeking the various defense witnesses.

Noting that "we understand national security may be involved here and we do not wish to do anything to jeopardize national security," Mr. Marger argued that the appearance of a CIA representative and of Richard Bissell, a former CIA deputy director, "is the crux of our case."

He said B-26 aircraft were used by the CIA in Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and "it is the CIA policy to help in the export of B-26 bombers without export licenses."

Excellent for Strafing

Picturing the 1965 bomber ferrying operation to Portugal as "the same" as the U-2 and Bay of Pigs incident, Mr. Marger said that "the course of action used in this case . . . are normally the CIA procedures used in prior CIA operation.

Mr. Coors detailed the arrangements made through his bank for establishing the nearly $700,000 letter of credit from Luber S. A. of Geneva, Switzerland, to Aero Associates Inc. of Tuscon.

Letter of Credit Issued

A principal in Aero Associates was Gregory R. Board, 45, a defendant in the case who has not been located.

On trial before Judge Henderson and a jury of 10 men and two women are:

Hawke, 28, a former British RAF pilot living in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Roderick, 47, a Winnipeg, Man., businessman, and Henri Marie Francois de Marin de Montmarin, 58, a French count and a businessman in Paris.

After a series of meetings in March and April of 1965 with Board and de Montmarin, a representative of Luber, Mr. Coors said the letter of credit was issued providing for scattered payments to Aero Associates after various documents would be presented to the bank.

Bank Paid $296,010

He said the payments were to be made in these three categories:

1—$100,000 for the first 10 aircraft, money which was immediately available with the presentation of 10 bills of sale.

2—Additional amounts could be drawn against the letter of credit ranging from $17,000 to $27,000 for each of 20 bombers subsequently modified and certified by the Federal Aviation Agency.

3—$148,850.50 for a shipment of various spare parts.

Mr. Coors testified that between April 23 and Aug. 9, 1965, his bank paid a total of $296,010 to Aero Associates for the delivery of seven bombers and spare parts. Included was $12,000 paid to John Hawke, $3000 each on four of the airplanes. Hawke allegedly piloted the twin-engine aircraft.

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Noting that the B-26 aircraft at issue were allegedly designed for use in the Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique, Mr. Marger described the twin-engine aircraft as "excellent for low-altitude strafing and precision bombing, especially in land of jungle terrain."

U. S. Atty. John T. Curtin objected to issuing a subpoena to anyone from the CIA.

Bank Official Testifies

He said that comparing CIA activities in the U-2 and Bay of Pigs incidents "is like saying that because you see two redheads in a restaurant, all the girls are redheads. It's not logical."

Judge Henderson ordered both attorneys to submit written statements supporting their positions by morning.

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